"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE

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The Appropriation of Christ

By F. B. Meyer

At the beginning of the Christian life, for the most part at least, we try to *imitate* Jesus Christ. There is Scriptural warrant for our doing so. And the time will never come when we may not look up to Him as our model and ideal, with that eager, longing gaze which must exert something of a transforming influence. But if this be all, we shall find our Christian life one of unutterable disappointment and sorrow. The infinite beauty and glory of our ideal must ever distance our noblest efforts, as the inaccessible heights of the Jungfrau, clad in untrodden snows, rise higher and ever higher above the traveller as he approaches them along the valley at their foot.

In a railway carriage recently I was attracted by the earnest look on the face of a young man who was reading "The Imitation of Christ." Some kinship of spirit drew me to his side, and the conversation naturally opened by a reference to the holy meditations of the almost unknown saint, which has become part of the household literature of the Church. Without depreciating that precious manual of the holy life, I ventured to suggest that "imitation" alone was insufficient for the purpose we had in view; and that there was a more excellent way.

Years ago, when a lad at school, there was failure in my attempts to imitate with clumsy fingers the smooth copper-plate at the head of my copy-book, nor was there better success in the endeavor to imitate the finished drawing placed upon the easel; and the captain of the school could throw cricket-ball and hammer for almost as many yards as the slender arms of his imitator could throw them feet. Yes, and as year after year I have tried to imitate the matchless glories of Jesus Christ, there has been the same weary sense of failure, beneath which heart and hope have sunk down baffled and disappointed.

There is another word which carries with it the inspiration of a new hope, and speaks of the possibilities of faith — the word APPROPRIATION. Let us not be content with the effort to imitate Christ; let us appropriate Him, as the flowers of spring and the fruits of autumn appropriate the properties of sap and dew and balmy air, and all the glorious forces that lie hid in sunbeams.

This thought is Scriptural. What is it but another way of expressing the Apostle's exhortation to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"? (Rom. 13:14). In Him, by the good pleasure of the Father, all fulness dwells, that we might receive of it grace upon grace; and that reception is but another term for appropriation. In giving us His Son, the Father hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness; but that gracious provision avails us nothing until we claim and appropriate it by a living faith. The promises are all ours: but they are vain until we lay upon them the hand of appropriating proprietorship; and, as heirs, enter upon our inheritance. All true faith must have in it this thought of appropriation. We first know by hearing what are our glorious privileges and rights. Then we reckon that the record is true. And, finally, we begin to use that which has been so freely given. Like the pilgrim-saints of olden days, "we are persuaded of them, and embrace them" (Heb. 11:13).

This thought is also confirmed by experience. A little group of earnest men were gathered not long ago around a fire, eagerly discussing the methods of a holy life, and reciting their own experiences of the grace of God. One had recently entered upon the gladness of a life of entire consecration, and spoke fervently of his new-found joys. But when his story was told, a venerable clergyman expressed his disappointment at an experience which was only negative, and told so little of the positive side of the appropriation of Christ.

Years before, when engaged in a gathering of unruly and noisy children, he had been suddenly driven to claim from the Saviour the gift of his own gentle patience, in the words, "Thy patience, Lord!" And instantly so divine a calm filled his spirit that he realized that he had made a great discovery. And from that moment he had retained the extremes of his brief petition, inserting between them the grace, the lack of which was hurrying him to sin. In moments of weakness, "Thy strength, Lord!" or in moments of conscious strength, "Thy humility, Lord!" When assailed by unholy suggestions, "Thy purity, Lord!" or when passing through deep waters of trial, "Thy resignation and restfulness, Lord!" What is this but a living example

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"Lodges Examined by The Bible" Going Fast

109 Pages, 9 Chapters, Half-Inch Thick, 35c each, 4 for $1.00; or, Given Free With One Year's Subscription to "The Sword of the Lord," $1.00 Per Year

The new book by Editor John R. Rice, *Lodges Examined By the Bible*, arrived from the Publisher Friday morning, that is, the first shipment came. Ninety-one were immediately prepared for mailing to fill orders. Other orders are coming in. We expect thousands of copies to be distributed soon, by God's grace.

The new book was printed by Fundamental Truth Publishers, who publish only sound, fine Christian books by such authors as Dr. Wm. Pettingill, Dr. Walter Lewis Wilson, and Dr. Arthur I. Brown. It is beautifully printed, has a colored, strong paper cover. It is printed on book paper, is about half an inch thick.

The contents of this book, so full of facts, scriptures, testimonies and Christian teaching, is suggested by the following chapter headings:

1. Plain-As-Day Scriptures Forbidding Lodge Membership for Christians.
2. Why I Write Against Lodges.
3. Christians Sin By Yoking Up With Unbelievers In Lodges.
4. Is It a Sin for Christians to Take the Blasphemous and Horrible Oaths of the Lodges?
5. Lodge Religion Is Not the Christian Religion, but Pagan and Antichristian.
6. Lodges Damn Millions of Souls With a False Plan of Salvation that Denies the Blood and Rejects Christ.
7. Lodges Are a Swindle.
8. Lodge Oaths Not Binding on Christians: Should Be Renounced and Broken.
9. "Wherefore Come Out From Among Them, and Be Ye Separate, Saith the Lord."

There are 109 pages. The book is a real value for its low price.

Preachers and Christian workers will want to keep a copy handy to answer questions. There will be

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WILL AMERICA GET IN WORLD-WIDE WAR?

"Except Ye Repent, Ye Shall All Likewise Perish" (Luke 13:3, 5)

Can America Keep Out of the War That Involves Germany, France, England, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, and Threatens to Engage Italy, Russia, Spain, and the Balkan Countries? Shall We Have Millions of Men in Arms, Our Cities Darkened, Our Ships Sunk; With Cantonments, Harbors, Industrial Centers, Even Hospitals Bombed From the Air and Millions Slain? Shall We Have Traitors Within Working With Enemy Spies Betraying America To the Enemy? Shall We Have A Dictatorship In Government, Go Many Billions of Dollars Further In Debt?

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

Some people say, "It can't happen here!" No, nor could it happen in Norway, nor Belgium, nor Holland, nor Denmark — but it did. What caused the present world war? Men who do not believe in God, and who think that all things happen in a more or less accidental manner, search for incidental causes. One says it is European power politics that caused the war. Another says it was the unequal terms of the Versailles treaty. Others say it is the need of Germany for colonies, *Lebensraum*, that is, living room. But those answers are too easy.

War, like all great catastrophes that come to men, is the result of the working of certain inexorable divine laws like the following:

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

"Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:15).

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

"He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Prov. 29:1).

The working of these laws has brought about the horrible bloodshed, misery and ruin that is now devastating Europe and sending millions to premature graves, and, alas, many of them to a Christless death and an eternity in Hell.

It is foolish, then, to say that America cannot be involved in bloody, horrible war because we are separated from the present scenes of strife by three thousand miles of ocean. American wealth, American ingenuity, American isolation, American arms or America's supreme good fortune in the past cannot guarantee our safety now. If America has sown to the wind of sin like European nations, why should we not also reap the whirlwind of war as they are doing? If the wrath of Almighty God has mounted up against proud, frivolous, adulterous, drunken, Bible-denying, Christ-rejecting, Spirit-resisting America, then how can America escape the judgment of God in a bath of blood such as other nations have brought upon themselves by similar sins?

I fear that America is due to begin reaping what she has been sowing, and that we may expect all the hell of modern war in America soon.

With that in mind, now we will give the text for this message.

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5).

Here the Saviour specifically mentions two remarkable instances of disaster. The first one was of a number of Galileans, we suppose the same ones mentioned in Acts 5:37, who rebelled against the government and for their treachery were slain by Pilate and their blood mingled with their sacrifices at the temple as a solemn and horrible warning to sinners. The other case was of eighteen people on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them. Jesus plainly teaches that in both cases it was THE JUDGMENT OF GOD on sin. God used the governor, Pilate, in one case to execute His judgment, and in the other case what seemed to be an accident was literally an "act of God." The spirit of the passage above indicates that Christ endorsed the death penalty of the governor and that it was because the men did not repent of their sins, and He likewise indicates that the destruction of eighteen people by the falling wall was a deliberate act of God also because sinners did not repent.

Then He repeats after each incident the solemn warning that the one group were not sinners above all the Galileans, nor were the others sinners above all the citizens of Jerusalem, but, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish!"

Let us change the wording of the Saviour but the meaning not at all. "Suppose ye that England, France, Germany, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Poland, were wicked above other nations because they are suffering the horrors of war? I tell you, Nay: but, except America repent she shall likewise perish."

I think we can give the fundamental bases, the conditions that led inevitably to the war in Europe. When we examine them we will find that America has the same conditions, the same symptoms, the same sins and the same ferment of unrest and strife.

I. Incidental Bases and Causes For War That Might Involve America

There are certain causes that seem important to men, though they are really only incidental, which may lead to war, or rather, may be the occasion for war when there are deeper fundamental causes. First, there is the proximity or nearness to quarrelsome neighbors. America has had "Splendid isolation" separated by thousands of miles of sea from warring countries. On the other hand, France, Germany, and England are neighbors with all the clashes of interest of Old World politics. Therefore, many say that America is not likely to be involved in war.

But distances have crumbled and have been dissolved, with modern air warfare. Germany has now overrun Denmark which owned Greenland, the largest American island. Greenland is in close bombing distance of New England and New York. If Germany should overcome England, a number of British possessions are adjacent to the United States. Bermuda is only a short distance by plane from the Atlantic sea coast. Other possessions are near the Panama canal. Canada stretches all along our northern border. And Nazi spies and propagandists have been carrying on a subsidized work in many parts of South and Central America. No doubt it is the deliberate plan of Germany as well as Russia to secure airplane bases on or near the American continent.

And remember that the Philippine Islands are still our responsibility, though we have granted them independence. Would we be able to stand back and let Japan seize them? Or Germany? And the Hawaiian Islands are still our own and they have a far larger population of Japanese than of Americans.

And on the north, remember that Alaska is only a few miles from Russia, so close that it was originally owned by Russia. And Japanese and Russian fishing boats regularly fish in Alaskan waters.

Second, we have boasted that America was not vulnerable to attack, that our army, our navy, and the distance other people must travel to attack us make us be-

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Other War Articles Coming

In the midst of heavy burdens and ceaseless work, the editor feels compelled to warn America of her sins. Then, multitudes of people want to know what the Bible says about the present conflict, how it will end. What shall the nations of the world look forward to in the future? May we expect Jesus to come soon? What lessons must Christians learn from the awful conflict now raging? Should Christians go to war? These and many other questions cry for an answer. God willing, other articles on the world-wide war, using many Scriptures, will be printed in succeeding issues of *The Sword of the Lord*.

By all means renew your subscription if it has expired, or if it will soon expire. Call the attention of your pastor and other Christians to the articles and send their subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord*.

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See that unsaved neighbors and friends and back-slidden Christians read these articles on war. May God use them to save souls.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
512 West, Franklin Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Will America Get In World-Wide War?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

yond fear. But world situations and the increased use of air power in war has changed all of that.

For example, we have only a one-ocean fleet, that is, our navy is sufficient to protect only the Pacific Coast or the Atlantic Coast at one time. We count on the Panama Canal to allow our navy to pass from one ocean to the other quickly. But a few bombing planes could probably put the Panama Canal out of commission in one raid. It is not adequately protected. Thus our navy might be bottled up on one side of the continent while the other was ravaged in attack.

Again, we have almost no anti-aircraft guns. We have not sufficient guns, the experts say, to protect one large city from airplane attack. And our industrial plants, our airplane factories, our automobile factories are principally near the coast and within easy reach of attacking planes. America is vulnerable. People who say, "It can't happen here," should wake up to the fact that even the incidental conditions that lead to war now fit America much as they do Europe.

Again America has boasted of our American tradition, our solidarity, our moral strength.

But recent years have proven that America has all the unrest, all the divisions and disintegration of an Old World country. We have large numbers of communists, some of them in the government service. We have in the federal government brain trusters, at least one cabinet member, and many advisors of the president, who are out-and-out radicals; pink, if not red. Our government is a Socialist government. Our President counts the Supreme Court and the Constitution as relics of "the horse and buggy days," and he has gone about deliberately breaking down the confidence of the people in these American institutions. "Madam" Perkins, the secretary of labor, has refused to permit Bridges, the outlaw labor leader, an alien, a man of violence, communistic in theory and practice if not in membership, to be deported. "The fifth column" flourishes in America. Any invader would find traitors a-plenty to help him. Thousands of pro-Germans have been rejoicing over German victories in the rape of Poland, Belgium, Holland, Norway, and Czecho-Slovakia. Mexico, our nearest neighbor on the south, is specially friendly to communism. It furnishes a haven for Trotzky, the exiled Russian communist. There are tens of thousands today ready to blow up bridges, railroads, waterworks, factories; ready to conceal and aid spies, to poison water systems, spread rumors, start strikes, and hinder our government.

These are incidental conditions in God's sight, but in all human reckoning they are aids and causes of war.

Then consider that America is hated and envied by the "have not" nations — that is, those who do not have sufficient colonies for expansion and for raw material — notably Germany, Italy and Japan. With most of the gold in the world, with the richest raw materials, America would be rich plunder for a nation that so delighted in the sack of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland. Then consider that the United States has proclaimed itself the policeman of the western hemisphere and that by our Monroe Doctrine we have declared we will not permit any foreign power to take over territory in the entire western hemisphere, North or South America or adjacent islands, and you see that America could have sufficient occasion to be dragged into war at any time. If Germany should attempt to take the Dutch possessions in the Pacific Ocean, having already overrun Holland itself, or Greenland in the Atlantic, having already seized Denmark, or should she form an alliance with any South or Central American nation, offering to send military officers and modern machinery to reorganize their armies, and in return to receive airplane and submarine bases, then it would not be difficult for America to be drawn into war. And remember that the ambition of Germany and the ambition of Japan is world empire.

II. Real Causes That Bring Horrible War

The real and fundamental causes of war are really only two. They are first, man's sin; and second, God's wrath.

Jesus described the course of this age as one of "wars and rumors of wars" and said, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matt. 24:6, 7; also Mark 13:7, 8; Luke 21:9, 10). The human race will never get away from war. We said in the first world war we would "end all wars." We were simply ignoring the fact that men are wicked sinners, with deceitful, wicked, strife-ridden hearts, with enmities, hates and bloodthirsty dispositions by nature that inevitably lead to war. Because of sin, "the poor always ye have with you" (John 12:8). For the same reason we will always have wars with us, as long as there are sinful, unregenerate men on the earth.

The first child ever born in this world was Cain, a murderer. Every child born of woman since that time except the Lord Jesus Himself, has had the seeds of murder and war in his heart. In Romans, chapter 3, verses 9 to 18, we have God's indictment on the whole human race, that there is none righteous and none that does good, but that all are gone astray in sin. And there God tells us of all men that "their feet are swift to shed blood" (vs. 15), and then, "and the way of peace have they not known" (vs. 17). The human race is a fallen, sinful race with feet swift to shed blood and with hearts that do not know the way of peace!

War comes as naturally in this world as disease, old age, and death, and it comes for the same cause — sin!

The "reasons" given by Germany for her murderous attack on any other nation, for the butchery of millions and the waste of literally billions of dollars worth of property, and the infliction of unmeasurable human suffering upon multitudes of innocent ones, are no real reasons at all. They are the trumped-up excuses which vile human hearts manufacture as an alibi for their hate, their jealousies, their covetousness, their vengeance. Yet, though Germany is the willful and criminal aggressor in the present war, the peoples of other nations are also sinners in God's sight. In this particular matter that mad-man Hitler, demon possessed, is the guilty party, but in other causes known to God, all of Europe is also guilty. *Sin brought the war!* War is a natural outgrowth of the wickedness, the contentiousness, the lust and evil desires and hate and jealousies and godlessness of the people.

Some people have very foolishly said that if Hitler and Mussolini and Stalin were dead, there would have been no war. That is a mistake. Wicked as these dictators are, and guilty and redhanded murderers as they must appear before God for their assault on Ethiopia and Finland and Poland, etc., these men are the fair representatives of the people they rule. Let no one think that the people of Germany are not behind Hitler, nor that the Russians will not follow Stalin, nor that Italians will not join the bloodshed gladly when Mussolini says so. The people are proud as the rulers are proud, the people hate as the rulers hate, the people are covetous as the rulers are covetous, and the people are godless and unbelieving and immoral as the rulers are godless and unbelieving and immoral. There are exceptions among the people in each nation, of course, but the strength of these dictators is that they really do represent their people and are followed gladly. The occasion of the war and guilt for beginning it must be charged to Germany, but in God's sight the guilt is deeper and it is the guilt of all people where sin has been. So it is true of the whole race that "their feet are swift to shed blood" and "the way of peace have they not known."

A great wave of socialism-communism-atheism has been filtering throughout Europe. It is called by various names. It is a godless philosophy that exalts man, denies the authority of God, the authority of the Bible, the authority of law, and the sanctity of human promises. It is a philosophy of violence. It is based essentially on the doctrine of evolution, that there is no God, but that man is the product of evolution from beasts and is simply a part of the brute world. Darwin, Karl Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud were the apostles of this godless creed. Lenin, Trotzky, Stalin, and Hitler simply follow in their train. I say it is one disease, whether it be called socialism, communism, evolution, rationalism, humanism, modernism or atheism. It is a disease that exalts man above God, that exalts brute force above right. It encourages violence and bloodshed. It breaks down the government of parents over children, of pastors over people, of teachers over pupils. It breaks down reverence for constitution, for treaties, for pledged words. It knows no moral code, no duty to God. It fears no judgment of His wrath against sins.

This is just another way of saying that what is happening in Europe is the natural result of rebellion against God, unbelief in the Bible, rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour. It is the result of modernism in the pulpit and worldliness in the pew. Sin, unrestrained, unrebuked, unconfessed, unrepented, leads inevitably to crime and sin, bloodshed and war!

Europe is bathed in blood as a result of her sin!

But can America escape war, then? Do you suppose that England and France and Germany and Poland and Belgium and Holland are more wicked than America? Paraphrasing the words of the Saviour, I say, "I tell you, Nay: but, except America repent, she shall likewise perish."

The second fundamental cause of war is the wrath of a personal, holy God. Sin itself inevitably brings trouble, it brings disease and death, it brings quarrels, hate, murders. Between nations it brings strife and war. But this is not simply and alone the blind working of nature. It is the law of Almighty God. God Himself hates sin. He Himself has guaranteed that sin must be brought to punishment. God said through Moses that "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). We may be sure of that for several reasons. First, God has given His Word. The integrity of God's Word is at stake. Sin must come out and be punished. Sin must be brought to judgment. Second, the holiness and omnipotence of God must be vindicated. If one sin gets by and does not eventually come to judgment and punishment, then Satan has triumphed over God. If one sinner can get by, then two sinners may, or a million sinners, and God Himself would be toppled from His throne. The holiness, the righteousness, the omnipotence of God is at stake. Third, all nature is so attuned to the will of God that it must cooperate with the punishment of sin. Abel's blood cried to God out of the ground against Cain the murderer (Gen. 4:10). "The stars in their courses fought against Sisera" (Judges 5:20) when God fought with Israel. If the children had not praised Jesus when He rode into Jerusalem in triumph, even the very stones, He said, would have cried out! (Luke 19:40). Nature, though under a curse for man's sin, yet is in tune with God to guarantee that sin must be punished. That is the reason there is never a perfect crime without a clue. God is determined, and God has promised that sin must be punished. That means that a personal God who watches all the affairs of men, who notes even when a sparrow falls, who counts all the hairs of our head (Matt. 10:29, 30; Luke 12:7) — that God has a record kept of every sin (Rev. 20:12). And God will visit war and famine, and horrible punishment beyond description on sinful nations.

It may seem shocking to hear it, but without a doubt Hitler is the agent of Almighty God. I did not say he was a child of God. I did not say that he loves God. I did not say that he intends to serve God. I believe the contrary to be true. But nevertheless, Hitler is the agent of an angry God and is being used to punish sin.

Do not be deceived into thinking that the affairs of the nations have been wholly taken out of the hand of God. Nebuchadnezzar supposed that by his own might and power he had built great Babylon. But:

> "While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken, The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will"
> —Dan. 4:31, 32.

Let us not forget, then, that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" still.

So God uses wicked men to bring about His purposes. He used the men of Ai, marked for utter destruction, to defeat the armies of Israel under Joshua, because Israel had sinned (Joshua 7:4-12).

Six times in the book of Judges it is said that "the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hands" of the Philistines or the Midianites or the Ammonites or other enemies and allowed them to be murdered and oppressed for years. That is in Judges 2:13-15; Judges 3:7, 8; Judges 4:1, 2; Judges 6:1; Judges 10:6, 7; and Judges 13:1. I tell you, God uses wicked men to bring punishment on the sins of even nations dear to His heart. Down through the centuries it has been true that "surely the wrath of man shall praise thee" (Psalm 76:10). Read Leviticus 26:25; Jeremiah 25:8, 9; Jeremiah 27:6:7; Jeremiah 28:14, and you will see that it is a regular plan of God to use the wicked to chastise even His own children for their sins.

Second Chronicles 36:16, 17, says:

> "But they mocked the messengers of God and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age; he gave them all into his hand."

Nebuchadnezzar thus was brought to destroy Jerusalem, to tear down the temple, to kill multitudes, and to take the nation in captivity. He was a heathen and wicked king. God had chosen him as a vessel to be used for His honor.

It is still true that "All things work together for good," to those who love God, and that includes punishment on sinners. One of God's "all things" is Hitler. Men have not taken things out of the hands of God. Hitler, Stalin, and others are the scourge of an angry God on Germany, on Russia, on England, France and other nations.

And shall America escape? Do you suppose that all the people of Europe are worse than American people? Do you suppose that the people of Finland, of Belgium, of Holland, of England, are more under the curse and wrath of God than are the people of America? "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"!

The Sins of America That Cry Out To God For a Visitation of Wrath and Bloodshed

If wars come because of sin and as an expression of the wrath of God in judgment upon wicked people, then how can America escape? Surely the words of our Saviour apply to America: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

In what way is America better than the European nations engulfed by war?

The debauchery and drunkenness of the legalized liquor traffic in the United States cries out to God for judgment upon us! The present president solemnly promised that never should the open saloon return to America. In every essential, the saloons are back, more of them than ever, selling more beer and liquor to women and girls than ever. There are more girls serving booze and beer than there are in all the colleges of America! The consumption of booze steadily increases. The government is in the liquor business. City, state and federal governments accept money as a bribe to allow the foul liquor business to go on with its murder, its manufacture of paupers and drunkards and harlots, and with its corruption of government and morals. The federal government through President Roosevelt, expressly promised to protect dry territory. That promise was deliberately violated. For example, in Texas where the Dean Law (the state prohibition enforcement law) was still in effect, the federal government sent liquor agents and sold licenses to bootleggers. With federal permits they sold whiskey in dry territory and the federal government refused even to give the name of license holders (bootleggers) to Texas law-enforcement officers!

Our government is wet, our newspapers are wet. Liquor and beer advertisements, expensive, alluring, are carried by most periodicals and by nearly all radio stations. Thousands are dying every year in automobile accidents caused by drunken drivers. Booze has a part in the crime wave, in the growing divorce evil, in industrial accidents, and in the army of the unemployed.

God says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink" (Hab. 2:15). God pronounced a woe, a curse, a plague, a judgment on all who promote the drinking of alcoholic liquor, whether whiskey, wine or beer. Then surely God has bound Himself to bring a woe upon America, its government and its people.

If God sees the tears of abused wives and desolate widows, if God hears the cries of little children and the prayers of heart-broken mothers, if murder, if prostitution, if corruption in government, if lewdness grieve and anger God, then America should expect a period of bloodshed and calamity as the chastisement of an angry God!

The investigations of Dr. Dan Gilbert and many others show that virginity is disappearing in the classes of American colleges. The big majority of men students and nearly half of women students profess to have lost their virtue before college days are finished.

Immorality spreads among students. Many schools teach ballroom dancing and thus encourages lust and low standards of behavior. Many school buildings are used for weekly high school dances, as is notoriously true in Dallas, Texas, where the editor has lived for the past seven and a half years before moving to Wheaton, Illinois. The high school and junior high school in Wheaton, an exceptionally fine, moral town, have closing festivities which include the modern dance.

Adultery has become no longer shocking. Chaperones are out of style. Men and women, unmarried, ride alone in the night or park by the roadside. They attend taverns, night clubs and roadhouses at all hours of the night. Contraceptives are sold openly to millions, the unmarried as well as the married. Can God ignore the ruin of virtue in America?

America is lust-crazy. Women's play clothes often include no more than brief shorts and a brassier or halter. The beaches are swarmed with women and girls three-quarters naked. Strip-tease dancers, bubble, and fan dancers are little restrained by law and uncondemned by the public. The movies glorify harlots and excuse adultery. The people pattern after lewd theatre heroes and heroines, notoriously immoral. Venereal disease floods the nation with literally millions of cases of active syphillis (health officers say one person out of every eight) besides other types. God have mercy on America!

And if Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their lewdness, how shall America escape? And if Europe today is bathed in a bath of blood for her sins, suppose ye that they are sinners above America?—"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

The homes of America, old-fashioned centers of Christianity and virtue and honest toil, are changed. Where is the family altar that once made the home a holy of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Will America Get In World-Wide War?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

holies? Even in the vast majority of so-called Christian homes, there is no family altar. Relatively only a few church-goers thank God at each meal. And how few hold to Christian standards of morality!

And in America each year, there are nearly 200,000 divorces. One in every five and a half marriages ends in divorce. In areas where Catholics are not so strong, the proportion is much larger. In the state of Texas, for instance, there is one divorce to every two and a half marriages. And in this the native American stock is more flagrantly evil than the recent immigrants from the Old World. America goes far beyond the divorce rate of other civilized countries, far beyond those nations in Europe which are now engaged in a holocaust of war! One hundred thousand children are left orphans each year, not by death, but by divorce. Malachi 2:16 says, "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." And God warns that He is a witness between a man and the wife of his youth against whom he deals treacherously. Can God be unmoved, then, by the horrible crime of broken homes, orphaned children, the hate, the envies, the breaking down of morals that goes with the dissolving of the American home? If such sins led to chastisement and war in other countries, how can America escape?

Our youth grow up in homes without discipline, without restraint. There is no exercise of parental authority. Sins are not punished. Character is not developed. Our relief rolls are being augmented every year by the thousands who grow up without ever being taught to work. They have no initiative, no incentive, no self-respect or tradition that requires a man to work and make a living. The government owes everybody a living, they think. The youth are taught no fear of God. The family altar has been forsaken. There is no teaching of death and hell and judgment.

So the land is filled with youthful criminals. Murder has become common. There are more criminals in America than all the police forces of the nation combined. Literally tens of thousands of murderers walk the streets free as air, who have never paid any penalty at all for their crime. Our nation is a bloodthirsty nation. Those who are not killers condone the crimes and discourage the punishment of offences.

But God said to Israel, "So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it." (Num. 35:33).

If the God who rules the universe today is the God of Israel, then America can be purged of her murders and her crimes only by a bath of blood. And because of blood, God turned Jerusalem and Juda over to their enemies. He said, "And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day. Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin wherewith he had made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the Lord" (II Kings 21:13-16). Then later, when God sent against Jehoiakim, king of Judah, bands of the Chaldees and Syrians and Moabites and Ammonites to destroy Judah, it was because of the sins of Manasseh, "and also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood which the Lord would not pardon" (II Kings 24:4).

You may be sure that God sees and records all the sit-down strikes, all the murders by strikers, all the strife and hatred stirred up by the C. I. O., all the division of the people into classes and arousing of hatred against financial leaders and employers, by labor leaders and by the government. God hates crime, spite, envy, hate and murder, and if the sins of Europe have brought upon her the judgment of Almighty God, then America, too, must expect war and a bath of blood!

The schools were once the foundation of American democracy. They were taught by honest, God-fearing men and women. Now they have been turned over to Bible-denying, godless evolutionists. Children are taught even in the grade schools that the Bible is out of date, that miracles are impossible, that "science," so-called, has superceded the Bible and that man is only a part of the brute world. Even the Ten Commandments are laughed at in higher seats of learning in America. The universities and normal colleges where our teachers are trained are often tainted with communism and ultra-liberalism.

In morals, the schools generally have taken a stand against Bible morality and Christian standards. Trial marriage is advocated. The faith of students is broken down. Free love is often taught and often practiced.

Christians are the salt of the earth, the Saviour said, and they are the light of the world. But He gave the warning, "If the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13). And the churches have failed America. Some have gone into straight-out infidelity. Many preachers, literally thousands of them, are blind leaders of the blind, knowing nothing and caring nothing for a new heart. They deny every essential of the Christian faith, the inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, the virgin birth, Heaven and Hell. How can God smile upon us with "modernists," "rationalists," and "liberals" in the pulpits of half of American churches? Their doctrine is exactly the same as Voltaire's and Paine's and Ingersol's. Can it please God any more that it wears the garb of the pulpit? Lying hypocrites who pretend to preach the gospel but who do not know the gospel or who hate it, men who do not know Christ nor love Him nor trust Him, men who would strip Him of His deity and His authority — how can they be a saving salt to a guilty, dying nation?

And in practically all the main denominations, other Christians who believe in the deity of Christ, believe in His atoning blood, believe in the inspiration of the Bible, yet send their gifts and support these Christ-deniers, these wolves in sheep's clothing. They sell out to denominational headquarters. Modernists and pussyfooters are in the same class, surely, in God's sight. Neither can be the salt to save America in these wicked days.

And in literally thousands of other churches where the gospel is believed there is a coldness, a formality, a luke-warmness that nauseates God. There is no fervor of heart in confessing sins, no compassion for sinners, no zeal to win the lost. Multiplied thousands of churches have no revivals, never seek to have. Thousands of churches do not even have a Sunday evening service, never give an invitation to sinners. What does God care about our formal preachers, our robed choirs, our stilted orders of service, when we do nothing to save the people from their sins, and to stay the avenging wrath of God from America?

If the rationalism of the German universities, the philosophy of the evolutionists, the atheists, the modernists — the theories of the Nietzsches, the Marxs, the Freuds, the Shopenhauers — have brought the wrath of God and world-wide war on Europe, then how in God's name can America escape?

I do not know whether America will be embroiled in the particular conflict now going on in Europe. I do not know whether we will be led to war against Germany or against Russia, or against Italy. I do not know whether war will begin in the Pacific with Japan and over the Philippine Islands and Hawaii and the Dutch Indies, I do not know whether the war will be an internal, bloody strife with an uprising of communists and the labor unions against society as a whole, with sabotage, with poisoned water systems, with bombings — such a war as overturned the government in Russia. Or I do not know whether it will be a form of fascism with army and navy officers, Jew-haters, Father Coughlin's group, and the Klan, making a sudden sweep for seizure of government, like a few people seized the government in Italy under Mussolini and a few in Germany under Hitler. I say, I do not know how it will come. I only know that all the warnings of the Word of God, and all the observations of experience go to show that wicked-godless, rich, drunken, adulterous, Christ-denying, dissolute America is due for the judgment of Almighty God!

"Except Ye Repent!"

There is only one remedy that can deliver America from the blood-bath of war, in my humble judgment. And that remedy is a wide-spread turning to God, a repenting, a revival of old-fashioned, fire-from-heaven Christianity.

It may be that a relatively few Christians can save America, temporarily at least, from the awful chastisement of God. Moses prayed through and saved Israel from extinction for their sins (Exo. 32:31; 32). No doubt the prayers of King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah saved the city Jerusalem from being seized and ravaged by Sennacherib and his gigantic army (Isa. 37). The prayer of every Christian should be like that of Daniel in the ninth chapter, when he gave himself with prayer and supplication and with sackcloth and ashes and confession to seek the face of God. He confessed his own sins and the sins of the nation and the sins of their kings. For three full weeks he ate no pleasant bread. And Israel was delivered from their captivity, and a remnant, according to prophecy, went back to Palestine to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.

Christians, let us confess our own sins to God. Let us earnestly and tearfully confess the sins of our loved ones, of our families, of our nation. Let us seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us drop our hate and our criticism of other fundamental Christians who are truly born again and who truly love the Lord Jesus and believe His book, the Bible. Let us make restitution for sins committed, be reconciled to brothers offended. Let us pay debts that we owe and confess wrongs we have done. If a brother thinks that we owe him one mile, let us go two. If a brother thinks we owe him our overcoat, let us give him the dress coat also. Meeting people "half way" will not bring revival. It will not stop the wrath of God.

Let us be unsparing in our attitude toward sin, whether in ourselves or in our beloved families or in others. Let us make no compromise with evil. Yet let us love sinners with a holy love and compassion and go after them like Paul, "night and day with tears."

And if America does not repent?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

With God's Half-Hour Radio Rally

Last Sunday, June 2, the editor was special speaker at *God's Half-Hour* radio rally with Rev. R. J. Zehr at the large Mennonite church near Bloomington, Illinois. Great crowds filled the building morning, afternoon and night, coming from many near-by cities and towns and the countryside at large. The people gave liberally to the support of the radio program. The King's Messenger Mail Quartet of R. G. LeTourneau plant in Peoria gave special music throughout the day. There were two happy conversions.

Tuesday night, June 4, the editor began a city-wide revival in Bloomington in the Majestic Theatre, seating 1,200, services being sponsored by *God's Half-Hour* radio program, by the large Tuesday evening Bible class and other Christian friends. It will continue for two weeks. Friends are requested to pray. Those near-by may attend and listen in to *God's Half-Hour* program at Bloomington on WJBC at 1:30 p.m. daily and 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Sundays, daylight saving time.

THE SPIRITUAL REWARDS

By L. R. Scarborough, A.B., D.D.

God is a good paymaster. His rewards never fail to come for life, or talent, or money, or an investment of personality in his service. Every soul-winner should be encouraged by the beckoning and waving palms of victory and spiritual recompense offered to faithful service in soul-winning. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." I do not think that we should work for a crown; but I do think that we should rejoice in the fact that our Father was not unmindful nor unappreciative of the faithful service which we are to render in seeking to win souls and bring in His Kingdom. A star-filled crown is promised in the Word of God to none others than soul-winners in life's earthly pilgrimage — not to the statesman, not to the warrior, not to the philosopher, not to the great preacher as such, but to the soul-winner. God seems to have His stars for the crowns of soul-winners. These rewards are not all reserved for the crown after a while. God gives them along as we go in the successful soul-winning battle. Heaven is not the only place that has joys in it. Soul-winning gives a foretaste of heaven to the heart of the soul-winner here. The greatest joys I have known in life have come from the simple service I have rendered in trying to win the lost to know Christ.

I was on a train, nearing the end of a long journey. I had spoken two and three times a day for forty days. I had had the rest of nearly every night broken by the change of trains and the change of beds. I was tired of body, depressed of soul, discouraged in spirit. A Christian mother sat by my side on the flying train, and said, "I know you, though I have never seen you before. I recognize you from your picture which I saw in the paper. I have long wanted to know you. Our boy, Charlie, was wild, wayward, and worldly. Our patience in trying to lead him right and give him an education had been tried for years beyond measure. Finally we got him to college. We feared he would not stay. As he went away he bore our love and prayers for the salvation of his soul and the right utilization of his life. He was not doing well in college. His studies were hard. All the life about him was new and strange. You were in the college holding a revival meeting. He heard you preach. The Spirit of God got hold of him. You talked to him and found him under conviction. After the service you followed him to his room. Eleven o'clock passed, and twelve, and one, and two came. You persisted, and he held out against Christ. Finally, early, before the dawn of day, you faithfully, persistently pushed Christ to his soul, won him to Christ. He joined the church, attended Sunday school and the young people's meetings, he graduated at college, he is now married and has a beautiful family. He is a deacon in our church, superintendent of our Sunday school, a liberal, consecrated, Christ-honoring, successful Christian business man." By this time tears were running down her cheeks and down mine. Something seemed to rest my body, give new strength to my mind, and put leaping, bounding joy into every lineament of my soul, when this mother with tear-stained face, glowing, grateful heart, said, "I wish to bring to you, the winner of my son to Christ, the deepest expressions of a mother's gratitude and thanksgiving, and to let you know that through your persistent, tactful, and helpful ministry to my son you have blessed our home and helped to give the world a consecrated Christian layman who himself is winning souls." I cannot describe the joy that filled my heart. I know that it renewed my life like the eagle's and with wings I mounted up into the holy places of spiritual joy.

This same joy, more or less, waits for every one — preacher, teacher, gospel singer, faithful mother, or other witness who, for Christ's sake, will go out in the search for souls and seek to develop himself in the finest of the fine arts, soul-winning.

— From the book, *A Search for Souls*, by Dr. Scarborough, published by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

TODAY

"Even as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

— Hebrews 3:7,8

Today! — it is a word of wonderful promise. It tells that Today, this very moment, the wondrous love of God is for thee — is even now waiting to be poured out into thy heart; that Today all that Christ has done, and is even now doing in heaven, and is able to do within thee, is within thy reach. Today the Holy Ghost, in whom there is the power to know and claim and enjoy all that the Father and the Son are waiting to bestow, is within thee sufficient for every need, equal to every emergency. With every call we find in our Bible to full and entire surrender; with every promise we read of grace of the supply of temporal and spiritual need; with every prayer we breathe, and every longing that rules in our heart, there is the spirit of promise whispering, Today. *Even as the Holy Ghost saith, Today . . .*

Today! — a word too, of earnest warning. There is nothing so hardening as delay. When God speaks to us He asks for a tender heart, open to the whispers of His voice of love. The believer who answers the Today of the Holy Ghost with the Tomorrow of some more convenient season, knows not how he is hardening his heart. The delay, instead of making the surrender, in obedience and faith, easy, makes it more difficult. It closes the heart for today against the Comforter, and cuts off all hope and power of growth. O believer, *even as the Holy Ghost saith, Today,* so when you hear His voice open the heart in great tenderness to listen and obey. Obedience to the Spirit's Today is your only certainty of power and blessing.

—Andrew Murray

"Is the midnight closing round you?
Are the shadows dark and long?
Ask Him to come close beside you,
And He'll give you a new, sweet song.
He'll give it and sing it with you;
And when weakness lets it down,
He'll take up the broken cadence,
And blend it with His own.

"And many a rapturous minstrel
Among those sons of light,
Will say of His sweetest music,
'I learned it in the night.'
And many a rolling anthem,
That fills the Father's home,
Sobbed out its first rehearsal,
In the shade of a darkened room."

— *Streams in the Desert.*

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The Appropriation Of Christ

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of the appropriation of Christ?

This thought would light up the darkest, saddest life. We sadly chide ourselves for our failures; and yet we are oppressed by the weary consciousness that we are all too likely to repeat them. We catch glimpses of ideals in the lives of others, and in our own happier moments, that only mock us. We fail to adorn the Gospel of God our Saviour, in all things, because we lack the materials for the beautiful garments of our array. And all this because we do not realize that all of Jesus is for us; only waiting for us to appropriate it with exceeding joy.

Jesus Christ is an Armory in hand to spear and sword! Christ is and weapons for attack. Happy is he who has learned to enter the sacred arsenal to gird on the breastplate and helmet, and to lay his hand to spear and sword Christ is a Banqueting-house, in which the tables groan beneath the weight of all that is needed for the supply of appetite and the gratification of taste. Happy is he who makes free of the rich provision, and comes to it whenever he needs! Christ is a Surgery, stored with all manner of restoratives and blessed elixirs; nor lacks an ointment for every wound, a cordial for every faintness, a remedy for every disease. Happy is he who is well-skilled in heavenly pharmacy, and knoweth how to avail himself of his healing virtues. Christ is the Jewel-room, in which the graces of the Christians are held in strong and safe keeping. Happy is he who knows which is the key to the massive doors, so that he can go in and out at his will, and array himself in "whatsoever things are lovely, and whatsoever things are of good report!" With burning words like these the saintly heart expatiates on the fulness of Christ. But, after all, how inadequate the words are to express all the rapture, the strength, the grace which become the spending money of the man who has learned to appropriate the Lord Jesus! He moves from the attic into comfortable apartments. He becomes a first-class traveller by the most luxurious route. He no longer laments his leanness; but cries with the ring of a new hope, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

It is difficult — nay, impossible — to employ words sufficiently emphatic, or forcible, to enforce this habit of Christ-appropriation on Christian hearts. Suffice it to say that it would be as life from the dead for many who read these lines and whose life has been a series of disappointments. Let us work it out in one or two directions, as suggested by the Apostle when he says, "Of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (I Cor. 1:30). Let us

I. Appropriate Christ As Our Wisdom

Many true Christians find it difficult to know the will of God. They long to do it, if only they knew it; but it is hidden from their eyes. "Should I move to another town?" "Should I take such a step in business?" "Should I enter into such a partnership, or ally myself with such an enterprise?" "Should I embark in this new branch of Christian activity?" Such questions are constantly arising and pressing for an answer in all our lives; and as they do so they excite the instant inquiry, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

But how may we know God's will? That is not always easy. Yet the difficulty is not in Him. He does not wish us to grope painfully in the dark. Nay, He is ever giving us many signs and hints as to the way we should take, too delicate to be perceived by the coarse eye of sense, but clear enough to those who are divested of self-will and pride, and only anxious to know and do the holy and acceptable and perfect will of God.

It is a mistake to seek a sign from heaven; to run from counsellor to counsellor; to cast a lot; or to trust to some chance coincidence. Not that God may not reveal His will thus; but because it is hardly the behaviour of a child with its Father. There is a more excellent way. Let the heart be quieted and stilled in the presence of God; weaned from all earthly distractions and worldly ambitions. Let the voice of the Son of God hush into perfect rest the storms that sweep the lake of the inner life, and ruffle its calm surface. Let the whole being be centered on God Himself. And then, remembering that all who lack wisdom are to ask it of God, and that Jesus Christ is already made unto us wisdom, let us quietly appropriate Him, in that capacity, by faith; and then go forward, perhaps not conscious of any increase of wisdom, or able to see far in front; but sure that we shall be guided, as each new step must be taken, or word spoken, or decision made. It is an immense help in any difficulty to say, "I take thee, Lord Jesus, as my wisdom," and to do the next thing, nothing doubting; assured that He will not permit those who trust in Him to be ashamed.

II. Let Us Appropriate Christ As Our Righteousness

It is not necessary to convice the readers of these lines that they need a righteousness, in whose stainless white they may stand accepted before the Holy Father. That, alas! is but too apparent. Conscious of our nakedness and sin, we once sought to establish our own righteousness, stitching together the fig-leaves, which died as we plucked them, and became sere and shrivelled. But since then we have submitted ourselves to the righteousness of God, which is by faith. There is often, however, an apparent doubt in Christian hearts as to their relation to that righteousness; and they do not realize that, whether they feel it or not, it is, nevertheless, covering them, in all its radiant beauty; for in the thought of God, every believer is arrayed in the beauteous dress of the Saviour's finished work. "It is UPON all them that believe" (Rom. 3:22). There is only one kind of faith, and directly it is exercised, though amid many doubts and fears, the believer is justified, accepted in the Beloved, and accounted not only as forgiven, but as righteous in the sight of God. This is so, whether it be realized or not.

The first moment of faith is the time when we begin to appropriate the righteousness of Christ. At first it is with trembling hands that we gird ourselves in the dress that cost our Lord so much. We fear, as we enter the most holy place, and stand where angels worship; but, as the days pass on, and we learn more of its efficiency, its adaptation to our need, and its preciousness in the sight of God, we become more assured of our position, and notwithstanding repeated failures in the past, the misgivings of nature, and the taunts of hell, we have boldness to enter into that which is within the vail.

Jesus Christ has been made to us righteousness by God; but He needs to be appropriated by faith when we are first convinced of sin, and ever after, when conscious of our worthlessness and guilt. How triumphant the ejaculation, "Jesus, I flee unto Thee to hide me; I appropriate Thee as my righteousness before God!"

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."

III. Let Us Appropriate Christ As Our Sanctification

Sanctification is separation—separation from sin; separation to God, to the point of devotion. There often arises before us the vision of a devoted life, such a life as Jesus lived, whose only thought was to do the will of God. To recognize God as the sole source of holiness. To lean on Him, and to listen for His voice within the heart as the sole and sufficient guide. To live apart from the restless aims and fretting ambitions of men. To be separate from sin—holy, harmless, and without rebuke. To keep ever in touch with God and His thoughts and aims. To obey Him at all hazards and costs. To be the channel through which the river of God may flow down into earth's desert places, making them rejoice and blossom—ah, what an ideal is here!

Yet at first this ideal mocks us sorely. It is high, we cannot attain unto it. And we shall be beaten by repeated failures until we learn the secret, which is just now our chosen theme. Apart from that there is nothing for us, but sadly to renounce the bright vision as impossible; though perhaps reserved for saintly hearts which spend their time in cloistered piety.

But it is brought within the range of the humblest and weakest disciple, who renounces all hope of realizing it through nature's efforts, and who appropriates Christ in His all-sufficiency. Trust the Holy Spirit to work in you a perpetual remembrance of the Lord Jesus, and then avail yourself of Him in all His offices and work. And amongst other aspects, be sure to appropriate Him as your sanctification. When tempted to cross the line of separation, or to relax the energy of your devotion, look upward and say, "Be thou to me in fact that which the Father has already made Thee, in possibility and by right, my Sanctification."

IV. Let Us Appropriate Christ As Our Redemption

We have been redeemed from the curse of the law, because He was made a curse for us. But we long to be redeemed from the power of sin. "The good we would, we do not; the evil we would not we do." And this longing shall be met; because it would not be like our God to leave us to the mercy of the strong Pharaoh-like foes which have made us serve under cruel bondage for so long. He must come down to deliver us. Ah, what joyful news it is that He has done so, and has provided a sufficient deliverance in Jesus.

But this redemption waits our appropriation, as the flowers of spring await the hand of the flower-girl; or as the deliverance wrought for the Jews by Mordecai awaited their personal action, which made it their own. From this moment give up your strivings and endeavors, and take Christ as your deliverance from all the sins which have broken your peace, and cursed your joy. When the oppressor approaches you; when the old habit seeks to assert itself; when easily besetting sin begins to weave its snare about you, or suddenly to assail—then look up to the Saviour, and say, "I appropriate Thee as my redemption in this my hour of need!"

A lady travelling in the Southern states, after President Lincoln had proclaimed the freedom of the slaves, found a black woman, who was acting as a slave, because she did not know that her race was free. She had heard rumors, which her owner and others had denounced as lies. But as soon as she knew that she was free, she appropriated her freedom, and went forth into liberty. Let it be clearly understood that the Son has made us free, who bear His name; let us avail ourselves of our right; and go forth into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

This is the secret, then, of a glad and victorious life, unshadowed by cloud or defeat; Jesus Christ for all who believe; awaiting only the appropriation of the most trembling hand stretched out towards Him in expectation of faith.

It is a goodly land which the Lord our God giveth us in which scarceness and penury are unknown. Let us not linger on the threshold, but go in to possess it with songs of thanksgiving.

(From the book, *Christian Living*, published by Revell.)

Will America Get In World-Wide War?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Then listen to the Word of God through the prophet Amos:

"And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew; when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

— Amos 4:6-12.

God has warned America. We have had ten years of depression. Millions of people have been unemployed. Banks have closed. Businesses have gone bankrupt. Government expenses have pyramided and climbed and the national debt has approximately reached the limit set by law. The budget is unbalanced. We have given up our liberties. Business has been threatened, brow-beaten, over-taxed and ham-strung. Socialism and communism have increased. A great unrest fills the land. We have had drouth, the greatest in history. We have had floods, storms, train wrecks, catastrophes. Yet America has not turned toward God!

Other nations have gone to war. America, the favorite nation, the pet of fortune and circumstance, apparently, has escaped thus far. But if America does not repent, then God will say to America as to Israel, "Therefore thus will I do unto thee . . . and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God."

Sinner, Repent Today

Some individual reads this, perhaps some lad who would be the first to be drafted in the army in case of war. Consider, then, dear reader, the thousands who died in the wicked assault on Finland. Are you any better than they? Or the heroic defenders of Poland, who were bombed, were strafed with machine gun fire, were shelled with heavy artillery so that many thousands died in a week's time, were they sinners above all you in America? Consider the thousands of England and France who are now in trenches, or the thousands who have already died. What leads you to suppose that you are better than these? These hundreds of thousands who have perished in the war, do you suppose that they were sinners more than you men in America?

You who are Christ-rejectors, you who will not repent of your sins, you who drink and blaspheme, who resist the Holy Spirit, who will not read the Bible, who will not seek God — do you think you are better than the doomed millions, the bright young men of Europe who face the guns, the bombs, the treachery, the sudden death that is modern war? The men even in the armies of Germany, men who follow blindly a wicked and godless leader, do you think they are more wicked than you? Many of them love home and mother, love wife and sweethearts as well; they hold life as dear; they have dreams and ambitions as high as you have. If God brings on them war and death, then how do you think you should escape. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

But some read this who are not young men. You would not be called to the colors, drafted into the army and navy. But I remind you that the hell of modern war, the blitzkrieg (lightning war) of today brings death and destruction on women and children; upon old men as well as young. Cities are bombed, refugees are often shot down, hospitals are destroyed. In the name of the broken families, the wandering refugees, the killed and wounded and bereaved of all Europe, the women and children and non-combatant victims of the war, I ask you, are you better than they? You women of America, do you suppose that the women of Europe are so much more wicked than you, that God has brought upon them this sorrow, and you will escape? "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

The only thing that keeps a sinner from God is his sin. It is not just the fact that he *has* sinned. It is the fact that he *loves* sin, holds on to sin. God's mercy is unmeasured, but He cannot have mercy on the sinner who will not repent, who will not turn his heart away from the love of sin, to love Christ and trust Him. Will you, unsaved reader, repent today and be saved? If so, then I beg you, tell God so in your heart. Confess your guilt! Ask God for mercy! And trust Him today for full forgiveness and salvation.

If you who read this are unconverted and will honestly and sincerely confess yourself as a lost sinner, repent of your sins and trust Christ for salvation, will you not write me? This decision slip is added for your convenience, but I beg you, do not sign it unless you mean it with all your heart.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
The Sword of the Lord
512 West Franklin Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

Like all sensible people, I am appalled by the war. I acknowledge myself a guilty, lost sinner. I know that I have no more reason to escape the wrath of God than the multitudes in Europe. Today, by God's help, I confess myself a wicked sinner and turn my heart away from sin, to love and trust Jesus Christ. I know He died for me. I depend upon Him today to forgive all my sins, to change my heart, and make me God's child. Sincerely I sign this as my public and earnest confession of my faith in Christ and of my earnest desire to live for Him alone. I will tell others of my decision.

Signed ....

Address ....

Date ....

"Lodges Examined By the Bible" Going Fast

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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